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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

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DATE OF CONTENT 8 to 22 March 1954

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TE. PREPARED

April 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activity was observed at Finsterwalde airfield between 8 and 17 March 1954:

8 March. No air activity was conducted at the field. There was a 2/10 overcast and good visibility.

9 March. Between 9 a.m. and noon, several individual take-offs were made by Il-10s which circled several times in the vicinity of the field. The same type air activity was conducted in the afternoon.

10 March. Between 10:50 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., flying was practiced by Il-10s. The sky was 2/10 overcast. At 11 a.m., a biplane took off heading north. At 11:30 a.m., a biplane landed at the field.

11 March. At 11:45 a.m., a high-wing monoplane took off and practiced flying in the vicinity of the field for about 30 minutes. There were no clouds and good visibility for a range of 400 to 500 meters. After the landing of the high-wing monoplane at 12:15 p.m., flying was practiced by Il-10s for 10 to 15 minutes duration. Air activity was continued after nightfall.  no boundary lights or runway lights had been turned on. All the aircraft observed landed individually and approached for landing with their landing lights lit.

12 to 17 March. No air activity was observed. The weather was continuously bad with occasional fog and very poor visibility.<sup>1</sup>

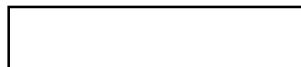
2. Between 8 and 17 March, the following changes were observed on the installations occupied by Soviet Air Force in Finsterwalde:
- Installation No 7. A Soviet Air Force sentry armed with a submachine gun was recently posted in front of the main entrance of the Soviet komendatura housed in the former Villa Thierack;
- Installation No 8. The garages formerly observed near this installation had been dismantled. A radio truck with an antenna, 2 to 2.5 meters long, was observed at the same site.<sup>2</sup>

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3. Between 15 and 21 March, no air activity was observed at the field. The weather was mostly bad with fog and rain. Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 22 March, local flights were made by ground attack aircraft. The sky was 1/10 to 3/10 overcast and visibility was limited to about 10 km. Local night flying started at 7:30 p.m. [redacted] the rotary searchlight gave a new identification signal; at regular intervals, it made 4 rotating movements to the north at an angle of 90 degrees.<sup>1</sup>

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1. [redacted] Comment. Finsterwalde airfield is still occupied by a ground attack regiment.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Installation No 7 in Finsterwalde, located on Ross Luxemburg Strasse, is believed to house the district komendatura. Installation No 8 on Geschwister Scholl Strasse was formerly occupied by a transport unit. Its present occupation is not known.

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